



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BEAUMONT MAN SENTENCED TO 70 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR FIREARMS CONVICTION**

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 40-year-old Beaumont, Texas man has been sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm in the Eastern District of Texas. **HAROLD KIRK SAMUEL** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Marcia A. Crone.

U.S. Attorney Orwig was pleased with the sentence, "The message cannot be clearer to convicted felons: If you possess a firearm as a convicted felon, you will serve hard time in federal prison—No probation, No parole. This sentence further demonstrates our resolve to strictly enforce the federal firearms laws in this district as well as the continued success of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative of the Department of Justice. I commend the combined efforts of the Beaumont Police Department and the ATF in bringing this individual to justice."

According to information presented in court, on September 28, 2004, officers and detectives of the Beaumont Police Department and Narcotics Unit arrested Samuel following the execution of a search warrant at his residence in Beaumont. During the search they recovered a large sum of cash and a loaded Lorcin Model L380 semi-automatic handgun, with extra ammunition nearby.

At the time of his arrest, Samuel had been convicted for possession of marijuana, delivery of a controlled substance (cocaine), and possession of a

firearm on licensed premises, state offenses, all occurring in Jefferson County, Texas.

Knowing Samuel had previously been convicted for drug-related offenses in Jefferson County, the officers obtained assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in order to charge Samuel with a federal offense. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), federal and local agencies combine resources to aggressively prosecute federal firearms violations to achieve maximum community impact and protection.

On June 1, 2005, Samuel was indicted for being a felon in possession of a firearm. On March 23, 2006, Samuel pleaded guilty to the charge. He faced imprisonment for up to ten years.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the City of Beaumont Police Department and Narcotics Unit, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Randall L. Fluke.

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